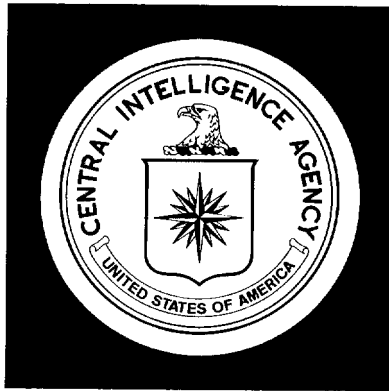


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**ARAB STATES - ISRAEL:** Egyptian and Israeli representatives are to meet again today at Kilometer 101 to continue yesterday's 3½-hour discussion concerning a mutual pullback of forces. Neither country has officially commented on yesterday's session, but Cairo's chief representative, General Gamasy, told reporters afterward that each side presented two alternative proposals for a pullback. He said "some" differences between the two sides remain, but noted: "We are still trying." Cairo domestic radio, meanwhile, broadcast a report on the meeting, citing UN General Siilasvuo's comment that the discussions were "beneficial."

Apparently in anticipation of difficulties at Thursday's military talks, Egypt had earlier:

- publicly accused Israel of obstructing implementation of the six-point agreement, and forecast that Thursday's talks would be "decisive";

- publicized a four-hour meeting Wednesday between President Sadat and his highest military advisers;

- taken foreign military attachés on a 14-hour tour of canal-front military positions in order to show Egyptian preparedness.

Egypt nevertheless completed, along with Israel, the exchange of prisoners, and its official spokesman expressed hope that an Arab-Israeli peace conference would begin "within the next few weeks."

Syria, while expressing through Foreign Minister Khaddam its intention to attend a peace conference "if it is convened in accordance with our concept," appeared to be improving its military positions facing the Israelis. On 21 November UN observers reported that the Syrian Army was bringing more troops into an area northwest of Sasa. The observers said the Syrians, who had previously been anxious to have UN patrols along the cease-fire line west of Sasa, no

longer wished a patrol in an area about six miles northwest of the town. The UN observers also noted that the Syrian chief of staff "probably will not permit continued mobile patrols"; such a restriction would significantly reduce UN coverage of the Syrian side of the cease-fire line, because all such patrols along the Sasa salient are mobile.

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Asked on

21 November if he expects military action in view of Israel's "obstinate" stand, Foreign Minister Khaddam, who visited Cairo last weekend, said only that Syria's battle with Israel embraces military, political, and economic means, which complement each other. Syrian President Asad is to make a one-day visit to Cairo today to meet with President Sadat. According to Egyptian press reports, Asad will then fly to Algiers to attend the Arab summit conference to begin on 26 November.

Both Syria and Egypt appeared confident that Cairo's position on how to deal with current issues would prevail at the Algiers conference. Iraq and Libya are the only countries not attending, and the possibility of lower level Libyan representation remains open. Egypt's semiofficial Al Ahram called on all Arab states to attend the conference, stressing the need to maintain solidarity and preserve the new Arab image achieved as a result of the October war.

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Meanwhile, the Organization of African Unity meeting in Addis Ababa adopted a resolution simultaneously hailing Egypt's "October war of liberation" and condemning Israel for its "act of aggression on 6 October." The resolution called on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and urged that African states continue to withhold diplomatic relations from Tel Aviv until it does so.

The first Israeli test of the Bab al-Mandab blockade appears likely to occur around 6 December, when the Israeli-chartered tanker Stonehaven should arrive in the area on its way to Eilat with Iranian crude oil.

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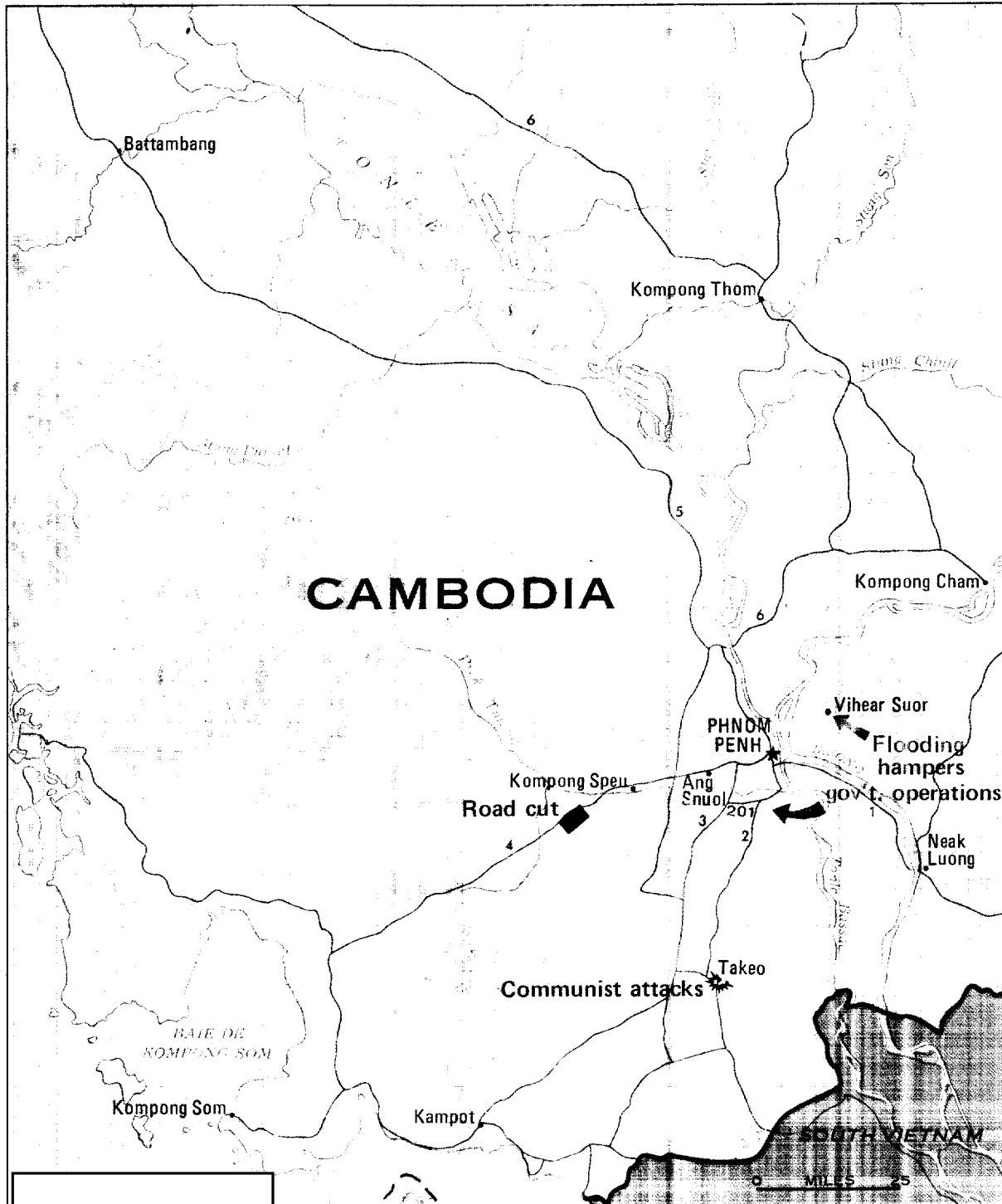
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CAMBODIA: Most significant military activity remains confined to areas well removed from Phnom Penh.

Khmer Communist forces during the past week have maintained firm control over a four-mile stretch of Route 4 west of Kompong Speu City and have kept nearby government units pinned down with mortar fire and sporadic ground attacks.

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A Communist push appears to be developing against the isolated provincial capital of Takeo, 40 miles south of Phnom Penh. The city has been subjected to a series of ground attacks since 16 November, and its commander estimates that at least five Communist battalions are opposing his troops. Takeo has a 2,000-man military garrison and a civilian population of 43,000. This is the heaviest pressure against Takeo since last April, when intense US bombing prevented the Communists from capturing the city.

In the Phnom Penh region, typhoon rains have brought military activity to a temporary standstill. The flooding of the Prek Thnaot River on the capital's southern front has halted efforts to resupply elements of two government divisions holding newly won territory along Routes 2 and 201. Similar flooding of the marshy area ten miles northeast of Phnom Penh has slowed the drive to relieve government forces at the town of Vihear Suor. The situation along Phnom Penh's northwestern defense line--ten miles from the city's airport--remains quiet following the Cambodian Army's successful clearing operation in that area last week.

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GREECE: The three politicians placed under house arrest on 20 November have all been outspoken opponents of the Papadopoulos government.

Ex-prime minister Kanellopoulos, former leader of a right-wing party, and George Mavros and John Ziggis, both of the moderate-right Center Union,

[redacted] All three belonged to the Committee for Reestablishment of Democratic Legality, a group formed last summer to lobby for a "no" vote in the referendum that ratified Papadopoulos' constitutional changes establishing a republic. The group has continued to meet since the referendum. Ziggis was arrested in 1970 for anti-regime activities. Mavros has publicly stated his intention to boycott any elections held by the Markezinis/Papadopoulos government; Kanellopoulos has hedged his position, stating he would participate only if certain conditions were met assuring that the elections were "impeccable."

Mavros and Kanellopoulos stepped forward to defend 17 demonstrators tried on charges of causing disturbances during the student demonstrations on 4 November; both used the trial to criticize the government. In the subsequent demonstrations last weekend, Kanellopoulos announced his support for the students.

In an attempt to salvage his efforts to restore political normalcy, President Papadopoulos initially ordered that non-communist politicians not be arrested. His patience was undoubtedly strained by the statement Kanellopoulos gave to the foreign press on 19 November--in defiance of press censorship--calling for the immediate formation of a government of national unity. Kanellopoulos said he was speaking on behalf of the "political world" and charged that it was an insult to call those who long for freedom anarchists.

Prime Minister Markezinis on 20 November reiterated his pledge to continue his program to restore Greece to political normalcy, but the demonstrations

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last week underscore the difficulty of the task faced by the government. The government's consistent line has been that the old-time politicians must bear responsibility for the violent demonstrations because of their encouragement of the students; a government statement on 18 November broadly categorized "politicians of the past" as "moral accessories of anarchist subversive elements." The government has bitterly attacked Kanellopoulos, challenging his right to speak for other politicians. The government's move suggests that it may now attempt to discredit him and eliminate him as a factor in the nation's politics.

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ARGENTINA: President Peron is out of immediate danger after his recent heart attack, but is still seriously ill.

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If Peron dies suddenly or is incapacitated for an extended period, it is unlikely that his wife and constitutional successor, Vice President Maria Estela de Peron, would be able to retain power for long. Although Peron has allowed her to assume limited executive duties, she has shown few political talents and has little support within the Peronist movement. If she resigns or is forced out, it is not clear who would be next in line. Although the Constitution provides that succession should go to the head of the Peronist-dominated Senate, the current leader is only a temporary stand-in. Consequently the presidency could revert to former provisional chief Raul Lastiri, who still heads the Chamber of Deputies.

In either case, such a constitutional successor would probably not last long--if, indeed, he could even be put in office. There is no single Peronist leader sufficiently strong or popular to stand a chance of gaining control of the Peronist movement peacefully. A violent struggle for control of the government and the movement would be likely.

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A violent struggle for power would hasten the re-emergence of the military as the ultimate political arbiter in Argentina.

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KOREA-UN: A consensus statement on the Korean issue has removed the possibility of a confrontation between the major powers in the General Assembly this year. The statement replaces the rival resolutions of Seoul and Pyongyang and avoids the most controversial issues--the future of the UN Command, US troop presence in the South, and UN membership for the two Koreas. Instead, it endorses efforts by Seoul and Pyongyang to seek unification under the principles of their joint statement on 4 July 1972 that called for unification without foreign intervention. The consensus statement also provides for the termination of the UN Commission for Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea.

Seoul and Pyongyang have endorsed the new arrangement, each apparently believing it lacked sufficient support for an assured victory for its own resolution. On the surface, the consensus statement is more favorable to the South Koreans because it forestalls the possibility of direct General Assembly endorsement of Pyongyang's demands for the termination of the UN Command and the withdrawal of US troops from the South. Pyongyang did succeed in scuttling Seoul's proposal for dual membership and will undoubtedly interpret the General Assembly's endorsement of the statement of July 1972 as a UN call for US and UN withdrawal from Korea.

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AUSTRIA: The Austrian Government is planning to close the Schoenau transit center for Soviet Jews and to establish new arrangements for their processing.

Since Chancellor Kreisky promised Arab terrorists in September that he would close the Schoenau camp, Austrian officials have been searching for a way to preserve transit rights for Soviet Jews without inviting further Arab terrorist attacks. Kreisky refused to renege on this promise despite some damage to his political standing and a slight setback for the Socialist Party in provincial elections. According to the US Embassy, Kreisky informed Prime Minister Meir on 2 October that Soviet Jews could still pass through Austria, but would have to leave for other destinations as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, he promised that a small medical station would be established to give overnight assistance to those slowed by sickness or disability.

The new transit facilities at Woellersdorf, just south of Vienna, will serve this purpose. Austrian officials made the arrangements after lengthy consultations with representatives from the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Intergovernmental Commission for European Migration. The Woellersdorf center will be under the nominal control of the Austrian Red Cross; Jewish officials will be responsible for the camp's administration, as they were at Schoenau. Some Jewish officials maintain that the actual terms of the government-to-government agreement stipulate that all refugees will be processed at Woellersdorf, but this claim has not been confirmed by Austrian authorities.

Austrian authorities believe that emigration rates for Soviet Jews will not be seriously affected by the new arrangement. A record 3,500 passed through Schoenau in October, the vast majority staying less than 48 hours before departing by plane for Israel.

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PERU:

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A week-old general strike called by a radical antigovernment teachers' union continues to disrupt Arequipa, a major city in southern Peru, and appears to be spreading to other cities in the area. According to press reports, the government on 20 November declared a state of emergency in two southern provinces. The regime's reaction to the strike and to the previous three weeks of scattered demonstrations has been restrained, but government leaders probably fear that opposition groups may now

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join in an attempt to weaken the government. If this happens, the government may see a need for forceful action to avoid a major challenge to its authority. The government most likely will be able to quell the disorders, but the extent of antimilitary sentiment revealed by the prolonged protests may lead to less tolerance for future opposition.

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ECUADOR: Ecuador was granted full membership in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries last week, advancing that country's efforts to improve its position as an oil exporter. In a related move, a Japanese consortium reportedly will be awarded the contract to construct a major refinery.

Ecuador currently exports some 220,000-250,000 barrels of crude oil per day, but lack of refining capacity has forced it to import many of its required petroleum products. The refinery, which may cost \$90 to \$100 million, is scheduled for completion in mid-1976.

It is unlikely that Ecuador will join the Arabs in cutting back oil shipments to Western countries. At least in the short run, Quito's prime concern will be to exploit its reserves and increase revenues. US companies, therefore, are likely to encounter tougher competition and more difficult bargaining with the government to maintain access to Ecuador's oil reserves.

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Laos: After considerable stalling, the Lao Communists have agreed to the holding today of the first formal session of the joint commission for implementation of the Laos peace agreement. The commission's convocation, two months after the signing of the protocol to the peace accords, is an important step toward formation of a coalition government.

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*\*These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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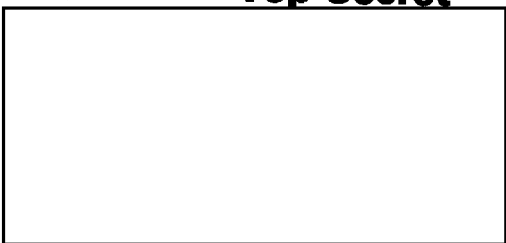
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